CLAIMS

Sub A'

1. A method of obtaining media data in a client device from a plurality of media data servers on a network, the method comprising the steps of:

accessing a meta data server;

receiving meta data from said meta data server;

utilizing said meta data to locate at least one data server of said plurality of media data servers on the network; and

accessing said media data from said at least one media data server.

2. A system for a distributed media network and meta data server, the system comprising:

at least one meta data server connected to a communications network;

at least one media data server for retrieving requested media data , the at least one media data server connected to the communications network;

at least one client transceiver connected to the communications network for receiving, storing and messaging to said meta data server; and

at least one meta data information source connected to said at least one meta data server.

3. The system as in claim 2, wherein the meta data information source is a meta data database.

4. The system as in claim 2, wherein the meta data information source is a file management system on a computer.

5. The system as in claim 2, wherein a second client transceiver of said at least one client transceiver functions as a first media data server of said at least one media data server, and wherein the at least one meta data server informs said at least one client transceiver that said second client transceiver functioning as a first media data server has access to said requested media data.

6. The system as in claim 2, wherein a first client transceiver of said at least one client transceiver transmits, stores, and messages a second client transceiver of said at least one client transceiver of the communications network.

7. The system as in claim 2, wherein a first media data server of said at least one media data server functions as one client transceiver of said at least one client transceiver.

8. The system as in claim 2, wherein a first media data server of said at least one media data server receives, stores and messages a second media data server of said at least one media data server of the communications network.

9. A method for receiving and processing requests in a meta data server, said requests received from a client on a communication network, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a log in request from said client over the communication network;

performing a client access permission verification;

receiving a media data request from said client;

requesting meta data for said media data request form a meta data database; and

transmitting meta data for said media data request to said client over the communication network.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the meta data contains an address for at least one media data server, the method further comprising the step of:

designating a primary media data server of said at least one media data server based upon criteria gathered from the communication network.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the primary media data server is designated as a first media data server of the at least one media data server having the least number of clients accessing media data files.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the primary media data server is designated as a first media data server of the at least one media data server having a highest reliability rating.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the primary media data server is designated as a first media data server of the at least one media data server having the highest data throughput.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein the primary media data server is designated by the meta data server.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein the primary media data server is designated by the client.

16. The method of claim 9, wherein the meta data for said media data request is for a portion of said media data request, the method further comprising the step of:

requesting additional meta data for another portion of the media data file.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

requesting an encryption key from the meta data server.

18. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:

requesting an encryption key from the meta data server.

19. A method in a client device for obtaining a media data file from a media data server, the method comprising the steps of:

logging into a meta data server;

requesting meta data associated with said media data file from said meta data server;

receiving said meta data associated with said media data file;

requesting said media data file from said media data server identified by said meta data; and

receiving said media data file from said media data server.

20. The method as in claim 16, wherein said meta data comprises at least one data item, said at least one data item selected from the list of:

a network address of a primary server that has access to the media data file;

a directory structure of a primary storage device that contains the media data file;
a name of the media data file;
a network address of at least one alternate server that has access to the media data file;
a directory structure of at least one alternate storage devices that contains the media data file;
a name of and owner of the media data file;
a name of a composer of the media data file;
a name of the copyright holder of the media data file;
a network address of a server that has access to a graphical image associated with the media data file;
a directory structure of a storage device that contains a graphical image associated the media data file;
a name of a graphical image file associated the media data file;
a title of an artistic work contained in the media data file;
a title of a body of work in which the media data file is associated;
a name of at least one performer of the media data file;
a name of at least one composer of artistic work contained on the media data file;
a name of at least one creators of the media data file;
a network address of a server that has access to additional information about artistic work contained in the media data file;
a directory structure of a storage device that contains additional information about artistic work contained in the media data file;
a name of a file that contains additional information about artistic work contained in the media data file;
a network address of a server which offers a sale of the media data file;
a directory structure of a storage device that contains sales information for the media data file;
a name of a file that contains information on a sale of the media data file;
a network address of a server which offers a sale of associated products of the media data file;
a directory structure of a storage device that contains sales information for the associated products of the media data file; and

a name of a file that contains information on sales of associated products of the media data file.

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